



LICKING VALLEY LOCAL SCHOOLS

VALLEY VIEW

FALL 2026 | COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER VOL. 06



A great start to the 2026 - 27 School Year!

The first weeks of school have brought excitement back to our buildings. Students are settling into routines, reconnecting with friends, building relationships, and getting ready for another year of learning and growth.

We are grateful to the teachers, support staff, administrators, bus drivers, cafeteria teams, custodians, coaches, and everyone behind the scenes who worked throughout the summer to prepare for the return of our students.

*A successful school year
truly takes all of us.*



FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

Dear Licking Valley Local Schools Community,

I am honored to introduce myself as your new Superintendent and to become part of the Licking Valley community. Before I share more about my vision, I'd like to share a bit about myself. I am a proud father of three children and one grandchild, and my wife and I have been married for 33 years. I am a graduate of The Ohio State University, a proud Buckeye fan, and I enjoy spending time outdoors whenever I can. Family, community, and connection are at the heart of who I am.

I would also like to sincerely thank the Board of Education for their trust and confidence in selecting me to serve in this role. It is a privilege I do not take lightly.

As I begin this journey, my focus is on people, our students, staff, families, and the broader community. I believe strong relationships are the foundation of a successful school district, and I am committed to listening, learning, and building meaningful connections across Licking Valley.

Open, clear, and two-way communication will be a priority for me. I value your voice and your perspective, and I look forward to engaging with you, hearing your thoughts, and working together in support of our schools. Collaboration and mutual respect will guide our work moving forward.

It is clear that Licking Valley is a community grounded in pride, tradition, and a deep commitment to its students. I am grateful for the opportunity to be part of that and to help continue the strong legacy that already exists. Together, we will keep building trust, strengthening relationships, and focusing on what matters most.

Our shared purpose is simple and important: ensuring each and every student has the opportunity to learn, grow, and succeed. I am excited about the work ahead and appreciative of the support and partnership that make this community so special.

Thank you for the warm welcome and for your continued dedication to Licking Valley Local Schools.

Sincerely,

Paul Smathers

Paul Smathers
New Superintendent
Licking Valley Local Schools



BETTER EVERY DAY, TOGETHER.

Our 2026–2027 district theme is more than a slogan.

Better Every Day means continuing to improve instruction, strengthen student support, celebrate growth, and look for opportunities to serve our students and families even better.

Together means recognizing that schools do not work in isolation. Our students are most successful when educators, families, community members, and students work toward the same goal.

This year, we will continue to focus on:

- Strong teaching and learning
- Student achievement and growth
- Supporting the whole child
- A positive and welcoming school culture
- Recruiting and supporting excellent staff
- Meaningful partnerships with families and our community



A COMMUNITY THAT SUPPORTS OUR SCHOOLS

One of the greatest strengths of Licking Valley is the connection between our schools and the community.

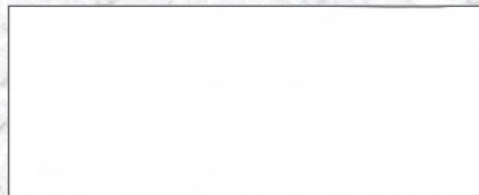
Throughout the year, local organizations, businesses, families, alumni, and community members provide encouragement and support for our students and staff in countless ways.

We are grateful for the continued investment our community makes in the education of the next generation.

Thank you for being part of Panther Nation!



PANTHER PRIDE IS EVERYWHERE!



Licking Valley students are...

LEARNING • COMPETING • PERFORMING • CREATING • SERVING
ALL THROUGHOUT OUR COMMUNITY!

From classrooms and athletic fields to music programs, extracurricular activities, and community service, our students have countless opportunities to discover their strengths and develop the skills they need for their futures. We invite our community to come out and support our students throughout the year.



SCAN THIS QR CODE
TO ACCESS OUR
2026-2027
DISTRICT CALENDAR

Panther Athletics Stay Connected!

Want to keep up with Licking Valley Athletics? Visit the official Licking Valley Athletics website for everything Panther fans need to stay in the know! Find athletic schedules, competition photos, and more, all in one place.

Whether you're looking for the next game or celebrating our Panthers in action, the Licking Valley Athletics website is your go-to source for Panther sports!



SCAN THIS QR CODE
TO ACCESS OUR
ATHLETICS WEBSITE

LICKING VALLEY ATHLETICS

2026-2027 ADMISSION & ATHLETIC PASSES

SINGLE GAME TICKETS

EVENT TYPE	ADULTS	STUDENTS & SENIORS
VARSITY EVENTS	\$8	\$7
NON-VARSITY EVENTS	\$6	\$5

ATHLETIC PASSES

FALL SEASON PASS

\$125

ALL HOME FALL
TICKETED EVENTS

WINTER SEASON
PASS

\$125

ALL HOME WINTER
TICKETED EVENTS

ALL-YEAR PASS

\$200

BEST VALUE • ALL HOME
TICKETED EVENTS

HOW TO PURCHASE PASSES

Contact Brandyn Ford

PASSES CAN BE PURCHASED DIRECTLY AT THE HIGH SCHOOL